

AstraZeneca - don't let them get away with murder!

In late 2008, an undercover worker infiltrated the world's most exposed animal testing laboratory, Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). Also, they watched as monkeys were shipped on 40 hour journeys from a filthy breeding farm and arrived cowering in the carry boxes at HLS near Huntingdon, Cambs.

AstraZeneca, amongst other customers, had contracted HLS to carry out experiments on their behalf. Where monkeys were kept in barren metal cages with no stimulation, many had skin and other health problems and some were seen to have escaped their cages. Monkeys were forcefully removed from cages and strapped into specially made restraining chairs, where toxic fumes were pumped into their lungs. The animals were so scared that they often prolapsed, collapsed or vomited their own faeces. Some monkeys were also found with missing limbs, which they had either chewed them off or had ripped them off on the shoddy caging.

During a recent inspection of HLS' Cambridgeshire facilities, AstraZeneca claimed that the animals 'did not suffer'. But all animal experiments in England are licensed by the UK government's Home Office - these licenses are given out upon a judgement of the suffering level the animal will have to endure during the experiment - from 'mild to substantial'. Therefore, to claim that animals do not suffer inside HLS is absolutely absurd.

Also, AstraZeneca claims to achieve excellence and reliability in drug research, it is surprising to learn that they continue to contract experiments inside a laboratory that has had their license revoked for animal cruelty and exposed for falsifying test data for clients. Whilst AstraZeneca themselves have been caught out recently suppressing test data and over charging doctors for their drugs!

Huntingdon Life Sciences and AstraZeneca

HLS is a laboratory infamous for being the world's most controversial, having been exposed seven separate times in just over ten years. They have been caught out punching beagle puppies in the face, violently shaking animals, falsifying experimental test data, cutting monkeys open while still alive and routinely flouting animal welfare standards (see all exposes at: www.shac.net/HLS/exposed.html). HLS are the only laboratory to have had their license revoked for animal cruelty and remain the most notorious animal testing laboratory in Europe. As a current customer, AstraZeneca are helping to keep HLS open by providing vital income during a time when HLS are struggling financially. We are asking AstraZeneca to stop dealing with HLS once and for all.

For more information about the campaign and the exposes, please visit our web site. Or you can request an info pack from: SHAC, BM SHAC, London, WC1N 3XX.

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